

HOUSE OF KEYS
GENERAL ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 22nd 2016

VOTE

STEVE CROWTHER

FOR ARBORY, CASTLETOWN & MALEW



Dear Constituent,

Please allow me to introduce myself, particularly if I have been unable to contact you directly.

At the start of these elections I have listened to a great deal of gloomy economic forecasts. My professional background also forces me to be a realist and I appreciate there are some hard economic challenges ahead, however, for those reading this manifesto further, I will try to outline that with the right vision and collaboration there is a more exciting and viable way forward.

A quick note about myself & my family

My name is Steve Crowther and I am 58 years old. I am married with a teenage daughter and living within the constituency in Castletown.

My parents relocated to the Isle of Man in 1973. We lived in Colby and I was schooled at Castle Rushen, going on to study architecture in Manchester, qualifying in 1987.

A successful career took me around the world, I eventually married and with a child we re-established our roots back on the Island by moving back to Castletown in 2003. My career and travels have given me considerable knowledge in both local and international business development.

My father a doctor in the South helped form the Southern Group Practice. My mother was a founding member of the hospice charity on the Isle of Man which we strongly support. We were all duly proud when she was awarded an MBE in 1995 and Tynwald Honour in 2013 due to her work and commitment to the hospice.

My decision to stand now

Firstly; I have developed a strong and reputable business back on the Island and the prospective MHK role would utilise this extensive local and the international experience I have acquired. Secondly; my family's long commitment to the Isle of Man's health services could now be extended through my own contribution. Thirdly; The new revised constituency formed from the combination of Arbory, Castletown and Malew now offers a fresh approach to many local topical issues, again suiting my development skills.

- Further developing Castletown's recent regeneration to spearhead new sustainable growth through the airport corridor
- Using Ronaldsways regeneration to improve Ballasalla and its conurbation, forming a new and revitalised 'gateway to the south
- To ensure the tranquillity and local resources of Arbory and the surrounding area are conserved and enhanced only where required.

While this manifesto will illustrate the exciting new local and national potential it is also set against a background of challenges facing the Isle of Man economy.



Structural Deficit

Addressing the Isle of Man's structural deficit of £75 million and forging a clearer path to acquire a balanced budget.



Brexit

The economic and political unknowns following the decision by the UK to leave the European Union, Brexit. The need for flexibility.



Pensions

The Isle of Man's financial commitments to its public and private pensions, projected at £3 billion.



Core Services

The commitment to our core services, some of which have been criticised following external review.



The Development Corridor

To achieve an improving economy and better quality of life, we must address the four challenges outlined on page 3 and it is vital that we are able to work together under strong clear vision and guidance. This will attract the high-skilled sustainable industries which are urgently needed to further develop the new economic diversity created under the last

administration. To do this we need to make more from our local assets. The three separate parishes of the newly combined constituency, which are administered locally under three strong local authorities, need to be carefully listened to and brought together with the two new MHK's able to lobby government together. This will give us a much stronger voice.

It is vital to form a collective team. I have always worked collaboratively finding the common ground to move forward.

We are all in need of new education, leisure and business activity to ensure greater prosperity and well-being. Many projects have been on hold for considerable periods particularly the Ballasalla bypass, local leisure facilities and schools however with a bold concept for a new clear strategic vision to encourage sustainable business development adjacent to the airport, this will be fundamental to our future long-term local and Isle of Man

economy. The Ronaldsway facility has provided many good jobs however it can now form a catalyst to do so much more. This is just the right point in time and place to bring together some of the new industries the Isle of Man is developing.

From my experience airports around the world achieve far better infrastructure than we have currently managed. The key areas around the airport are already in development however many areas of this land need to be brought together under one strategy. Examples of these new technologies are the new e-business and ICT engineering which the Isle of Man is urgently encouraging.

My proposals for a development corridor complements achieving an attractive environment at the critical gateway to the Isle of Man to suit these engineering and technology sectors

Why will this strategy work differently to previous? The key points are:

- A corridor development strategy is simpler and quicker to start and establish. It is also much easier to visualise and build upon.
- With public acceptance this will encourage a more attractive framework for private and publicly funded initiatives
- Access to the rear of the corridor can be negotiated later. Possible land exchanges will be more straight forward in the future.

The New Constituency

The Arbory parish has recently demonstrated how successful land exchange can provide a winning formula for redevelopment and new leisure for the area. This has brought much-needed benefits and highlights how with the right mindset this can achieve something better for the area. Using these skills within the enlarged constituency this brings us together to achieve a better and more successful environment for as all. In turn this will ensure we make a greater contribution to the Isle of Man plc.



I appreciate that the revised constituency amalgamating many of the independent local authorities may appear apprehensive to some. Using my skills in partnering I want to ensure that this is a success and is handled with care and sensitivity.

Arbory

Helping the commissioners maintain the local amenities, including both leisure and retail outlets. Spending my youth in Colby I understand the importance of the local shop, public house and new sports facilities. My sister teaches at the local Arbory primary school and provides me with good insight on local issues.

Parking

Rationalisation of parking within Castletown and Ballasalla is very much the preserve of the local authority however I hope that my specific transport & design skills would assist in helping with new inovative ideas.

Castletown

It is important to assist the commissioners to further enhance the regeneration of the square and associated public spaces using lighting and encouraging further use of outdoor space, such as the soon to be opened, Costa coffee facility. Many areas offer similar opportunities to expand the day and nighttime economies.

Flooding

Arbory, Ballasalla and Castletown have flooding issues which the Government has legislated to remedy. I will use my specific skills on flooding prevention design to scrutinise and help drive forward these proposals.

Ballasalla

The key to Ballasalla's development is recognising its key gateway status to the south of the island. A future bypass reorganisation would not just create an opportunity for more housing but also a more well designed link between a new village centre and the historic and majestic scenery adjacent.

St Marks

Realistic discussions with the local authority and highways on how to create permanent traffic calming through this unique village.

Further improving the business economy.

Our constituency is one of the many opportunities the Isle of Man has to expand its diversifying economy. The core long-term strategy of this expansion requires facilitating the new entrepreneurial business economy of the IT sectors under the umbrella term the 'Enterprise Isle'.

We are all aware of much maligned areas of government bureaucracy...

...however some Government departments have now significantly streamlined their procedures, which should be welcomed, for example the Planning Department although there are other examples such as Highways which are still struggling. It is important that where government staff are improving, this success is recognised and in turn this encouragement will help forge the further progress required. Central to ensuring the IT sectors growth is the further expansion of the Isle of Man's skill base and achieving smarter more efficient Government.

Centre of excellence

Promoting the Island as a centre of excellence for digital technology
Encouraging further diversity within the IT economy, enabling our skilled assets to create a place to thrive.

Education skills

Developing strategies through the college of further education and the new IOMUC to help the indigenous workforce gain realistic technical skills relevant to these sectors.

Partnering

Setting up a framework for new start-ups to use partnering (fostering local workers) to ensure we benefit from the new high-end skills expansion.

Design Institutes

Ensuring new design associations are better integrated to the new vision.
In turn, improving the government's communication of the vision is clear to both public and corporate thinking.

Development fund

Ensuring the Dept of Economic Development's new enterprise development fund is working together with crowd funding for smaller start-ups and the Enterprise Isle initiative.

Skilled Workforce

Helping improve net inward migration, focusing on high skilled technical workers to achieve long-term sustainable growth. In turn this assists the local support economy.

Bureaucracy

Overcoming departmental conflicts to promote the Isle of Man as a single legal entity and challenging departmental sectional interests. To reduce the silo mentality.

The retail sector

Improving footfall following regeneration. Encouraging local traders by using new digital technology to improve public awareness and where appropriate external displays/seating.

Development Land

Encourage private sector growth and establishing sites for 'employment land & housing', to assist the construction sector. New technology skills within the construction industry.

Workforce skills

Developing the skills base for the Isle of Man workforce. Looking at a broader age range for management development, for example traditional industries such as construction.

Legislation

Scrutinising new and current legislation that will impact on business growth. Current examples; Planning, disability discrimination, reviews of governance, climate change.

New local industries

Helping the indigenous industries further, for example where food matters strategy. Promoting local food production such as smallholdings and further diversity in the drinks sector.

We must ensure this new growth benefits all levels of our society

Mindful of the requirement to achieve high-quality immigration it is vital to ensure young active workers with ties to the Isle of Man are also assisted in relocation where practical. We need to be active in ensuring the skills training and first-time home buyer initiatives are available.

Technology

As will be clear in my key economic policies outlined, this forms the core strategy to improve business and government efficiency and improve well-being. My own business is at the very forefront of current computer-aided design technology. I have utilised voice recognition software over the last 10 years (the forerunner to what is now Apples Siri).

Some major considerations in technology;

- Pushing current developments within the IOM fibre-optic cable infrastructure to ensure we are at the forefront of the Internet technology.
- Ensuring integration of the new 3-D design and augmented reality infrastructure to ensure the Isle of Man is at the leading edge.
- To ensure Isle of Man legislation helps further diversification within this economy sector. Particularly focused on the DED's development fund.
- Focusing on the Isle of Man's digital strategy to ensure the social divide currently limiting some resident and visitor populations are narrowed.
- Promoting skills training and helping the new I.T colleges, the AMTC and the DEDs ICT apprenticeship training schemes.

Developing the skills base for the Isle of Man is an essential priority to achieve the "centre of excellence" being championed. The skills base must provide the flexibility required by the new tech diversity developing, fin-tech, bio-tech, space tech, e-commerce, virtual and augmented reality, IOT integration are just a few.

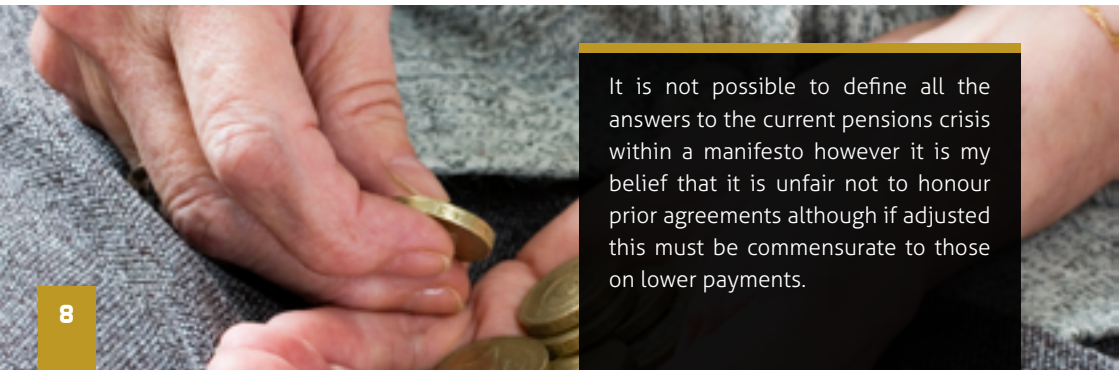
We must also recognise the excellent position the Isle of Man currently stands with regard to the robust new business and financial regulations developed over the last few administrations. It is vital to project this to the international business community.

Tax & Pensions

I believe the government has done well in limiting further depletion to the Island's fiscal reserves considering the change in the 2011 Isle of Man's revenue sharing agreement which the VAT reduction could have resulted in. This still leaves a structural deficit of £75 million and challenges with the projected public pensions deficit of £3 billion.

- Any increases in the higher earners cap of £125K could potentially be self-defeating particularly at a time when fiscal stability is essential.
- Current government reform of the public pension's remuneration has allowed a breathing space for consideration of a longer term strategy.
- With over 7500 self-employed workers, many of which are older, there is an opportunity to provide greater tax reduction with increased pension contributions which could help the near-term deficit.
- Moving away from recent stealth taxes to focus on fairer income related national insurance and personal tax, however my core priority is to ensure the island maintains its low tax status across all levels.

The public pension's deficit has two separate but related challenges. The initial challenge is the fear of the collapse of the system which has evolved from much of the media discussion. It is vital that this is addressed and contrasted with the potential growth I have highlighted. The longer term potential deficit can only be evaluated over the coming years dependent upon the economic conditions prevailing.



It is not possible to define all the answers to the current pensions crisis within a manifesto however it is my belief that it is unfair not to honour prior agreements although if adjusted this must be commensurate to those on lower payments.

Health & Well-Being

Clearly health affects us all and is a major core service. We have to aim to always attain the highest levels of professionalism and I do understand many of the needs and demands of the system. We have to ensure that moving forward, future generations have the infrastructure benefits in place.

- Ensuring new technology and infrastructure allows for the best possible development training for high-end skilled professionals relocating to the island.
- Evaluating areas of excellence that may be cost-effective in ensuring reciprocal arrangements with the UK.
- Using technology to help skilled professionals maintain their CPD (Continuing Professional Development) on Island.
- It is important to utilise our IT technology sector to develop better systems for avoiding wasted medical administration.
- New mental health pre-emptive and awareness strategies are essential to provide a better service and minimise future departmental overspends.

My family's background in this sector provides me with an additional insight into key areas affecting service delivery. I have also been involved in the design of medical facilities through my career and I feel these factors would enable me to provide an intelligent contribution to debate of this service.

The West Midlands Quality Care Review has clearly identified a number of key areas of concern which are being addressed, particularly in Paediatrics. The key to helping this service is assisting expand the skills base.




Tourism

The Isle of Man's historic tourist legacy now offers a golden opportunity to expand this sector. I welcome the new government's strategies in ensuring the correct image is projected of the island's rich heritage. It is important however to ensure professional promotional agencies have clear briefs and terms of reference.

- Ensure the Department of Infrastructure and Travel Watch Organisation's/user bodies monitor and encourage efficiency and reliability?
- Taking advantage of the new UNESCO Biosphere accreditation to promote the island's wealth of biodiversity. This also lifts our image on the world stage.
- Cost-effective travel with associated affordable transport links. Carefully scrutinising the design of any new ferry links and facilities.
- Helping to improve hospitality staff skills. Promoting hospitality events to encourage training within the industry.
- To consider independent accreditation of tourist infrastructure to ensure visitors respect our comparison of facilities.

Concerns regarding international travel security are now sadly very much a reality. We are well-positioned to promote a secure and culture rich experience from which we now need to make greater diversity. My own international travel and work experience demonstrates to me the shift in cultural tourism over the past decade, an area we now need to maximise and assist.




I care passionately about existing public space and maintaining access to it. Some administrations forget the ability of some members of the public to travel overseas or away. We must maintain and respect those local freedoms to enjoy our countryside and beautiful scenery.

Environment

Today, few are unaware of the importance of developing the environmental industry. The Isle of Man has huge potential in this area, a subject of which I have comprehensive knowledge. We must make it cheaper to heat our homes and avoid economic blight created from new homes adjacent to existing historic centres.

- The new development corridor should integrate new cycleways and landscaping to local conurbations. This will create a green, high-tech environment complimenting our beautiful landscape.
- Encouraging the new engineering and IT skills develop ways of micro-generating power. This could also lead to new export diversification.
- Better promoting new technology such as the air source heat pump technology combined with the latest insulation systems to achieve better usage of power consumption on the Island.
- Looking at further developing our natural resources on the island such as timber, which could be a cost-effective alternative to current fuel systems and future fluctuations in fuel costs.

Tourism, leisure, sport, health and the environment must respect and assist the voluntary sector workers who greatly impact in these sectors in the Isle of Man's economy. Also we need to be vigilant in helping nurture young businesses that evolve from the voluntary sectors. For example voluntary guides that may well assist the new UNESCO accreditation and heritage sites.



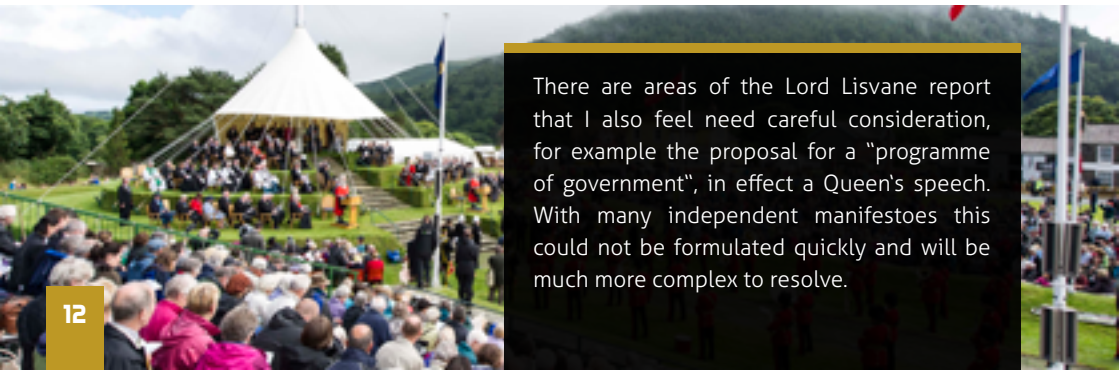
The environment sector is evolving into a major economic area of growth and I feel requires worthy consideration for use of the DEDs development fund to establish new revenue streams. Particularly where technology and microgeneration of power could be combined, which would work well with our conservation areas.

Governance

Following a government request for an independent review of the functioning of Tynwald it is important that the new administration review the resulting Lord Lisvane Report as soon as possible. Tynwald court is a sacred part of the Isle of Man's historical development. It is vital to scrutinise this review before implementation.

- Encourage a better gender balance within Tynwald.
- Review nomination of the Council of ministers.
- Create a new code of practice for sitting MHK's.
- MHK's CPD. (Continued Professional Development).
- Long-term view and focused strategies.
- Transparency, honesty and clarity.
- Greater single entity government.

Stability, vision and confidence are the key essentials for the Isle of Man to move forward in the next administration. Of these essentials the key aspect is communication. This is a vital aspect of my profession and an area in which I feel I can make a major contribution.



There are areas of the Lord Lisvane report that I also feel need careful consideration, for example the proposal for a "programme of government", in effect a Queen's speech. With many independent manifestoes this could not be formulated quickly and will be much more complex to resolve.

Law and Order

Currently the island has maintained its low crime rate. I very much embrace the new technology that the police are prepared to utilise to maintain and keep the crime rates low. It is also important however, that the government's good scrutiny and due diligence, ensure that this is well regulated.

I welcome the relocation of the police southern headquarters to Castletown from Port Erin. This will give the constituency a more central reorganisation. I care passionately however that the adjacent areas of Arbory & Malew are not neglected and that this arrangement will work effectively for everybody.



Housing

Two important new considerations will affect how housing will develop within the constituency. Currently Arbory is just in the process of seeing an increase in housing capacity which should be considered against limits for the local infrastructure. This requires careful consideration in any future proposals.

Castletown & Ballasalla have seen considerable redevelopment of the public housing stock and the new Housing Review has established that private housing areas are needed within the Castletown area. While I agree with this approach, which is complimentary to the development corridor outlined, it is essential that the correct design skills are used to ensure this is sensitively developed with respect to existing neighbourhoods.

The current fall in house prices across the island is an area for careful consideration. While this makes housing more affordable for first-time buyers and inward net migration, an area essential for economic growth, it also limits investment in existing housing stock by owners. It is important that the new environmental improvement strategies and first-time buyer grants are used wisely to ensure economic stability to this area.

Food & Agriculture

Personal family links to this industry keep me well informed as to the current challenges in this economic sector. As with tourism and leisure it is vital that we now promote the high standards of local food manufacture, farming and fisheries.

- Continuing with the Food Matters strategy and promoting local produce. Also skills training to ensure correct labelling.
- Respecting the UNESCO accreditation for biodiversity and stewardship of the landscape.
- Achieving a fair balance for relevant farm support and taxpayer investment. Sensible phasing of any adjustments.
- Using our newly developing technology sector to promote better integration of Agri-tech to assist the farming community.
- Ensuring any new DEFA technology is well integrated before launch within the farming sector.

Arbory, Castletown and Malew

Combined, the new constituency now holds many of the Island's major strategic assets and historic centres. I will adhere to my commitment to work together while maintaining each area's identity. Working and lobbying together will bring major benefits previously unachievable.

- Two MHK's now working together and able to lobby government with greater influence.
- Bringing together a development partnership for the new authorities while respecting each areas independence.
- Defining a strong vision for the area which will attract new business and government investment.
- Pushing forward delayed projects to improve the well-being and enjoyment for all. For example the bypass and new secondary school.
- Demonstrating to the national economy how focusing on and driving forward local assets can bring about success.
- Improving access to retail, including parking and opening hours. Ensuring a level playing field for smaller businesses.

Why Vote Steve Crowther

- **I have both the professional and international career, to bring the right voice and focus in government while representing this new dynamic constituency.**
- My personal connection to the three distinct parts of the new constituency provides me with the grounding to work and lobby together while respecting and maintaining each area's independence.
- **The new growth in the technology sector requires the right long-term vision to ensure we all benefit equally alongside the constituency's growth.**
- The other key theme running through this manifesto is communication. The Government must do better both locally and internationally. This is a key part of my profession.
- **My approachability, care and integrity, highlighted by my family background, will ensure the people's voice will be heard fairly in the new House of Keys.**
- Ensuring the Isle of Man's education and health sectors are equipped to ensure that the future expansion of the technology skills base required for growth is met for all.
- **The voluntary sector supports many of the Isle of Man's key areas and must be respected and listened to. This will be an important area of my representation.**
- Avoiding future stealth taxes placing any greater burden on the elderly, low paid and vulnerable. Using technology and working smarter to reduce government wastage.

I believe that the new technology sector will develop greater than the existing finance industry; we must ensure that the airport facility brings our fair share of this development by working together.

I have the passion, skill and vision to deliver this manifesto.

HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION

Thursday 22nd September 2016

VOTE

STEVE CROWTHER

FOR ARBORY, CASTLETOWN & MALEW



Published by Steve Crowther, 31 Arbory Street, IM9 1LL. Representation of the people act 1995.
Printed and Produced by Idesign Ltd, Threshing House, Castletown, IM9 1TF

If you require any assistance in getting to your
nearest polling station don't hesitate to contact
me on any of the below options

 823341  416722

 vote@stevecrowther.im

 [@stevecrowther](https://www.facebook.com/stevecrowther)

 www.stevecrowther.im